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translator, has rendered a good service in bringing such a book within our reach.

LURENA WILSON TOWER.

*Philadelphia.*

**Watson, W. P.** *The Future of Japan.* Pp. xxi, 389. Price, \$3.50. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1907.

In this book the author has attempted a broadly planned synthesis of Japanese political and social psychology. As is generally the case in works of this nature, we must not understand the latter term in too technical a sense. Among the many books on national and race psychology which have been written in the last decade or so, there is not one which confines itself strictly to considerations which may be technically called psychologic. In fact, they often give us merely a general description of institutions and manners. In the present volume, however, intellectual and psychologic factors occupy the center of the stage.

Mr. Watson's book does not shed any new light on the details of Japanese social and political organization, nor is it intended to be an account or summary of Japanese institutions. It is an analysis of present conditions and tendencies implying certain directions of development. Though the work contains no new facts, there is a redistribution of emphasis, which brings out into strong relief certain considerations that have thus far perhaps not been given the weight which they justly deserve.

In discussing the character of the political institutions of Japan, the author dwells chiefly upon their oligarchic nature. The fact that throughout the great period of reform and regeneration, the mass of the people has taken no active part in public affairs, that on the contrary, the destiny of the empire has rested in the hands of a small group of experienced leaders, is very strongly and clearly set forth by the author, with all its secondary consequences. The abyss between the people and their leaders is one of political power rather than of social feeling. The author accounts for the abuse and the frequent attempts at assassination directed against the leaders, the contempt of authority which is at times surprising, through the fact that the leaders have themselves repudiated the older canons of authority.

The author does not recognize any radical psychological difference between the Japanese and the European mind. There may be disagreement as to certain values, but there is an ultimate rational identity. The substance of reason is the same to both. The author's main thesis in this work may be summarized as follows: The leaders of the Japanese regeneration have as their ideal a state free from religion, governed by the unquestioned principles of science and logic. However, while not recognizing any religion, they have been forced to utilize religious emotions in the cult of the emperor and loyalty to the fatherland, which is, in fact, the basis of their authority. On the other hand, they have in the constitution openly invited the public in general to participate in political action.

To the author's mind the ideas of commonwealth organization and of imperial sanctity are incompatible. The religion of loyalty which has helped the people of Japan over the present crisis will gradually wane and Japan will then feel the need of a religious interpretation of life. He does not discover anything in Bushido, Shintosm or Buddhism which may be made the basis for a future regeneration of religious Japan. The solution he suggests is that Japan should come to appreciate the power and importance of the personality of Christ.

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**Weale, B. L. P.** *The Coming Struggle in Eastern Asia.* Pp. 640. Price, \$3.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1908.

This volume makes more definite the author's reasons for regarding the Peace of Portsmouth and the second Anglo-Japanese alliance with dissatisfaction, if not, indeed, with distrust and apprehension. A year ago he qualified the general enthusiasm with which these instruments were received by the disconcerting statements of facts contained in "The Truce in the East and its Aftermath." The outlook has now become clearer, but even less assuring than before. The East is still on the eve of great events. The former book pointed to the possibility that the advance in China would come with sufficient rapidity to make a speedy recurrence of the events of 1904-05 improbable, if not impossible. Such a development now seems less to be relied upon.

Russia, still firmly entrenched on the north, is consistently pursuing her colonization policy, and even at the present time is "three or four times as strong in the Far East as she was in 1904." The grain fields and cattle farms of Siberia, with the control she possesses through the railway over the resources of Northern Manchuria, will put her in an increasingly strong position in future negotiations concerning Eastern Asia. The late war was for her only a preliminary skirmish. Japan's attitude is one of contradiction. Having tried to play up to the standard of a first-class power she now finds herself without the material resources or financial backing to keep up the part. Notwithstanding her position, in fact precarious, she is adopting a policy of aggression not only in Corea, but in Manchuria and China generally, which if unmodified, cannot but lead her again into international trouble. The attitude of all the agencies of her government is to observe the letter, but disregard the spirit of the engagements into which she has entered, guaranteeing the "open door." Her government is completely under the control of the bureaucracy, and can therefore carry on a far-sighted and consistent policy with much less difficulty than is possible in countries under true democratic control. Germany and France are unknown quantities, neither of them at heart disposed to give strong support to the doctrine of equal opportunity, and both determined to be ready for a share of the spoils, if the turn of events brings a division.

The author's attitude toward the recent agreements guaranteeing the  
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